

197 to H.R. 1. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

Mr. Speaker, due to family reasons, I was unable to vote on Rollcall No. 331: Motion to recommit with instructions to H.R. 1. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Mr. Speaker, due to family reasons, I was unable to vote on Rollcall No. 332: Final passage of H.R. 1. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

Mr. Speaker, due to family reasons, I was unable to vote on Rollcall No. 333: On passage of H.R. 2417. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET ACCESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation because it will provide our seniors and all American consumers the relief they need from skyrocketing drug prices through safe, FDA-approved prescription drugs reimported from Canada and Europe.

And I am pleased that a broad bipartisan coalition has come together to advance this important measure.

Currently, the same exact prescription drugs purchased in Canada and Europe cost only a fraction of the prices charged in the U.S.

This does not make sense when a number of our seniors must choose between spending their limited income on food or taking on their daily dosage of a prescribed medication.

Some have raised concerns about the safety of importing prescription drugs from outside the United States.

As a nurse, I am always concerned about safety and doing no harm.

This bill takes important steps to actually improve the safety of prescription drugs through:

State-of-the-art technology to prevent tampering with the packaging (the same type of technology used by the Dept. of Treasury to secure our currency);

Strict inspections by wholesalers to test each shipment;

And by allowing only FDA-approved drugs from FDA-approved facilities into the country.

Further, the legislation's enforcement authority is clear and very strong—Manufacturers or importers can be heavily fined or even face up to 10 years in prison for failing to comply with safety requirements.

The plain fact is that more than one million Americans already purchase their medicines from outside the American market and there has not been one reported death or illness from Americans taking such products.

Mr. Speaker, reimportation is a common-sense thing to do. It is probusiness, pro-consumer and it's a safe and effective way for Americans to pay less for prescription drugs.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" for this legislation, our seniors can't wait.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DOMINICAN BASEBALL PLAYERS TO THE ECONOMY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this time to highlight some of the contributions that baseball players of Dominican decent are making not only to America's national pastime, but also to communities in the Dominican Republic.

It isn't long into SportsCenter or any other sports highlight show before one notices that some of the game's greatest contemporary players hail from the DR. Perennial All-Stars like Sammy Sosa, Pedro Martinez, Alex Rodriguez and Manny Ramirez, joined now by youngsters like Odalis Perez, Albert Pujols, Carlos Delgado, Alfonso Soriano and Miguel Tejada, are redefining the game by challenging long-established records and moving the bar of excellence higher than many would have imagined.

Baseball has a long established tradition in the DR, showcasing Negro-League stars like Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson in winter league games at a time when the color-line barred African-Americans from playing with white players in America. And these new stars know that they follow in the footsteps of major league trailblazers like Felipe Alou, Joaquin Andujar, George Bell, Rico Carty, Tony Fernandez, Pedro Guerrero, Juan Marichal, and Jose Rijo.

However, what makes these ballplayers different from athletes of the past is that they can afford not only to be positive role models of behavior, but also economic role models of philanthropy. According to Major League Baseball, the 79 Dominican major league baseball players earn a combined salary of \$210 million. Like many immigrants, they send money directly home to family members. However, they also contribute to the local economy by building homes, investing in business ventures and making contributions to charities based in their hometowns.

Their success in the major leagues has also brought in Major League Baseball as a partner in the island's economic development. According to a recent study, MLB has created 1,200 jobs, with \$14.7 million going directly to the country through the operation of 30 baseball academies that are all looking to find the next diamond in the rough. These are academies that not only provide services, but also buy from local merchants, which has lead to the creation of as many as 900 new jobs.

Success in baseball is not based on the play of one player but on the efforts of the entire team. These Dominican athletes know that the best way that they can truly honor the sacrifices of their family and friends is making sure that they give back with both their hearts and their wallets. Collectively, they and other Dominicans around the world are helping to shatter the myth that some people are forever destined to be the recipients of handouts and hand-me-downs. That with an investment of faith and money, talent can surface to change a game—and the world.

WE MUST WORK TOWARD WINNING AND SUSTAINING PEACE IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, since President Bush declared an end to major combat operations on May 1, 2003, we continue to have loss of life of our brave service men and women in Iraq at a rate of one per day.

Just look at the figures—491 wounded and 93 killed. We've lost 7 soldiers in the last week alone.

Why? Because the administration failed to adequately plan for post-war peacekeeping in Iraq. And experts are beginning to warn that the window for postwar success is closing.

We need to make a decision—and we need to do it quickly—about increasing the end strength of our military. Two days ago, the Pentagon announced that our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan should expect one-year deployments.

We are walking a very fine line on having enough troops to support our missions around the globe, especially Iraq and Afghanistan.

Asking our troops to stay for longer and longer tours is not the answer. Our troops are stretched thin, and we must start talking about doing everything in our power to win and sustain the peace.

BILL TO REFORM AMERICAN INDIAN TRUST FUND MANAGEMENT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to provide the basis for reforming the way the federal government discharges its responsibilities regarding the assets and funds it holds in trust for federally recognized Indian tribes and individual Indians.

The bill is also sponsored by Representative RAHALL, the Ranking Democratic Member of the Resources Committee, and is identical to a measure being introduced in the Senate by Senators MCCAIN, DASCHLE, and JOHNSON. It is based on a bill (S. 175) they introduced earlier, with revisions that reflect comments and suggestions from a number of tribes and others who have interest and expertise in this subject, including representatives of the Great Plains tribes, the Native American Rights Fund, the National Congress of American Indians, and the InterTribal Monitoring Association.

We are introducing the bill today in the interests of contributing specific legislative proposals for consideration as part of what we hope and expect will be a bipartisan effort to develop legislation to resolve many of the problems in this important part of the duties of the Interior Department.

As we all know, Mr. Speaker, the Interior Department's management of Indian trust funds is the subject of deserved criticism and

ongoing controversy. Last week, during debate on the Interior appropriations bill, the House was told that Chairman POMBO has indicated his commitment to having the Resources Committee work on resolving problems associated with that management—a commitment we welcome. Our bill is intended to be part of that effort.

Our bill includes two major changes to the 1994 American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act, the underlying law governing Indian trust funds management.

First, it elevates the importance of Indian trust management and other Indian affairs within the Interior Department by establishing the position of Deputy Secretary for Indian Affairs, to oversee the Bureau of Indian Affairs and all aspects of the management of Indian trusts.

There would no longer be an Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. The current Office of Special Trustee for American Indians would be abolished, with the duties of the Special Trustee being transferred to the new Deputy Secretary, who would be in charge of a new Office of Trust Reform Implementation and Oversight. In addition, there would be clear legislative affirmation of the fiduciary standards to be applied to the management of Indian trust funds and assets.

Second, the bill strengthens provisions for Indian tribes to participate in the management of trust funds and assets, based on successful self-determination policies. Toward that end, the bill would authorize a Tribe to use authority under existing law to manage trust funds and assets, without terminating the trust responsibilities of the Interior Department.

To further assess the way the Interior Department performs its fiduciary and management responsibilities with respect to Indian Tribes and individual Indian beneficiaries, the bill would establish a special 12-member Commission, with four members appointed by the President, two each appointed by the Majority and Minority leaders of the Senate, two each appointed by the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives. The bill specifies that a majority of members must be representatives of federally-recognized Indian tribes (at least one of whom must be the beneficiary of an individual Indian trust fund account). The Commission will choose one of its members to chair its proceedings.

The bill requires the Commission to review and assess Federal laws and policies relating to the management of Indian trust funds and to provide Congress a report about their conclusions and recommendations within three years after the Commission's first meeting.

Finally, the bill includes specific and detailed provisions to make clear that its enactment will not limit any of the findings, remedies, jurisdiction, authority, or discretion of the courts in the Cobell v. Norton litigation and that no funds appropriated to carry out an historical accounting of the individual Indian trust funds are to be used except as may be provided in an order of the court in that case entered after the date of the bill's enactment.

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that the time has come for Congress to directly address the problems associated with this subject. The bill we are introducing today is not intended to either whitewash or redress past wrongs, and it will not forestall the courts from resolving matters properly before them. Instead, it is intended to take an important first step toward

a better future for the Indian tribes and individuals in whose behalf the government is duty-bound to act.

For the benefit of our colleagues, here is a section-by-section outline of the bill:

OUTLINE OF "AMERICAN INDIAN TRUST FUND MANAGEMENT REFORM ACT AMENDMENTS ACT"

SECTION 1: Short Title—provides a short title for the bill.

SECTION 2: Definitions—amends section 2 of the American Indian Trust Fund Management Act of 1994 to provide definitions of the terms "audit," "tribal government," "trust asset," "trust funds," and "trustee."

SECTION 3: Responsibilities of Secretary—amends section 102 of the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 so as to clearly specify the responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to accounting for Indian trust fund balances and with respect to other aspects of carrying out the trust responsibility of the United States.

SECTION 4: Affirmation of Standards—amends Title I of the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 by adding a Congressional affirmation of the standards for proper discharge of the trust responsibility of the United States.

SECTION 5: Indian Participation in Trust Fund Activities—amends the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 to explicitly authorize an Indian tribe to use authority provided under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to manage trust funds and trust assets without terminating the trust responsibility of the Secretary of the Interior or the trust status of the funds and assets involved.

SECTION 6: Deputy Secretary for Indian Affairs—amends the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 to establish the position of Deputy Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs, to specify the duties of the Deputy Secretary, and (effective upon appointment of the Deputy Secretary) to abolish the Office of Special Trustee for American Indians and transfer its functions to the Deputy Secretary.

SECTION 7: Commission for Review of Indian Trust Fund Management Responsibilities—establishes a Commission (with four Members appointed by the President, two each appointed by the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate, and two each by the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives) to assess the federal government's fiduciary and management responsibilities with respect to Indian tribes; specifies a majority of Commission members must be representatives of federally-recognized tribes (and at least one must be an individual beneficiary of an Indian trust account); requires the Commission to report its conclusions and recommendations to Congress and the Departments of Interior and Treasury within 32 months after Commission's first meeting.

SECTION 8: Regulations—directs Interior, in consultation with interested Tribes, to issue regulations to implement the bill.

SECTION 9: Effect of Act—States that nothing in the bill will limit the findings, remedies, jurisdiction, authority, or discretion of the courts in the Cobell v. Norton litigation; provides that no funds appropriated for an historical accounting of individual Indian trust funds shall be used except as provided in an order of the court in that case entered after the enactment of the bill.

PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET
ACCESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, it is a disheartening reality in our country that the current administration refuses, so adamantly, to give seniors a real opportunity to obtain prescription drugs at a reasonable cost.

In times like these, when the economy is uncertain and prescription drug prices are soaring, it is essential to be creative in finding an affordable and effective way for Americans to obtain the drugs they so desperately deserve. H.R. 2427 gives our seniors, and other consumers, a tool they need to purchase life-saving drugs.

How many seniors are currently disabled by an illness that they cannot afford to treat with the drugs that their European counterparts can purchase for between 30 and 300 percent less? There are too many, and Congress cannot stand by and watch them suffer.

I know that my constituents in the Fourteenth District are suffering as a result of this government's inability to take meaningful action. A year ago, I co-released a report, detailing the outrageous prices seniors face when purchasing prescription drugs. For Prilosec, an ulcer and heartburn medication, a senior citizen in New York will pay on average \$144.60 per month. The same drug in Canada costs \$53.17. That is a 172% difference.

Zocor, which is one of the most common cholesterol-reducing drugs in the country, costs almost three times as much in New York City as it does in Canada. These are just two examples of the outrages our citizens face every day.

The Gutknecht bill will greatly reduce the cost of prescription drugs, and it will also ensure that imported medications will be safe for all seniors. H.R. 2427 mandates the use of greater technology to prevent the importation of counterfeit drugs, and it requires each shipment of drugs to be tested appropriately.

Twenty-two percent of Americans who are prescribed medication are unable to fill their prescriptions. This is an unacceptable statistic, one that my colleague's bill would take great strides to ameliorate.

America's seniors and consumers are afflicted by a disease: the absurd overpricing of prescription drugs. The fight against this epidemic must begin today. Vote "yes" on the Gutknecht bill, and let's give Americans a fighting chance.

COMMEMORATING THE TURKISH
INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today, we sadly commemorate the 29th anniversary of the Turkish occupation of Cyprus. Over one quarter century ago, more than 200,000 Cypriots were driven from their homes and forced to live under foreign occupation. Today, the legacy of this tragedy is the enormous Turkish